

EDITORIAL

Friends and admirers of Louis Agassiz Fuertes will rejoice to learn that the great bird artist's biography, now being written by his daughter Mary, will be finished by spring or early summer. There is not a person among us—not one—who has not been affected in one way or another by Louis Fuertes or his work. Some of us knew him well and treasure the memory of the hours we had with him. Many of us have heard stories about him—stories that lift the spirit and spread the smiles wider. All of us have seen his bird drawings and, having seen them, have wondered which was the more beautiful, a bird or a Fuertes drawing of a bird. Mary Fuertes Boynton wants this book about her father to be a full, faithful account. If, among our letters, or among our memories, there are facts or anecdotes which would help to give the world of the future a more complete picture of Louis Agassiz Fuertes, let us turn these over to Mary Boynton immediately. Her address is: Mrs. Damon Boynton, R. F. D. 3, Trumansburg, New York.

Applications for the 1951 Louis Agassiz Fuertes Research Grant are now being received by the chairman of the Club's Research Committee, Dr. Charles G. Sibley, Department of Natural Sciences, San Jose State College, San Jose, California.

The Louis Agassiz Fuertes Research Fund was established to encourage ornithological research. The grant is designed to help students and amateur ornithologists in defraying the expenses of their research programs, particularly such items as travel, materials, and equipment.

One hundred dollars is given each year to the applicant selected by the Research Committee on the basis of (1) merits of the applicant's project; (2) prospects of successful completion of the project; (3) ability of the applicant; and (4) financial need of the applicant. All members of The Wilson Ornithological Club are eligible for the grant. Dr. Sibley will supply application forms on request, or the applicant may furnish the following information in a letter: Name, address, and age, ornithological training and experience (no formal training is required as a basis for eligibility); subject of investigation (title, objective, and scope of project; plan of procedure; progress to date); supervisor or consultant, if any; ways in which the money would be used; financial need. A letter of endorsement by some well-known ornithologist or zoologist is desirable but not required. Applications which fail to win the grant in any given year may be re-submitted in following years if desired.

To perpetuate the memory of Frank M. Chapman, and to continue his influence, a memorial fund under control of the American Museum of Natural History was established after his death in 1945 by Mrs. Elsie M. B. Naumburg and her husband, Walter W. Naumburg. Many of Dr. Chapman's friends and admirers have since contributed to this fund, which has grown sufficiently to permit a grant or grants to be made from the income. The Frank M. Chapman Memorial Committee is happy to announce that the first awards may be allotted in the year 1951.

Applications for fellowships should be addressed to the Chapman Memorial Fund, in care of the Department of Birds of the American Museum of Natural History, New York 24, New York. Applicants should state their training and experience and describe the nature and scope of the proposed project as well as the plan of procedure, previous work on the project (if any), and amount of financial aid required. They should also name one or more sponsors.

Projects eligible under the provisions of the Chapman Memorial Fund include field expeditions, intensive studies of behavior of species of birds or of bird colonies, laboratory or museum studies—in fact, almost any kind of sound ornithological research. A sum of approximately \$2000.00 will be available for the first grants.

The American Museum of Natural History will be responsible for judging the qualifications of the applicants. Any necessary collections made during the tenure of a Chapman Fellowship will be deposited in the American Museum. Applications must be received before June 1, 1951.

Applications for the Edward L. Chalif Grant for Bird-work in México are now being received by Dr. Sibley. The grant is \$200. Applicants should state their plans briefly, making clear the parts of México they intend to visit. Mr. Chalif's desire is to bring to light as rapidly as possible the salient facts of bird distribution in México, for he is working on a field guide covering all the birds of that country. He plans to be in México himself for about five months this coming summer and would like to join a party working there during that same time. Roger Tory Peterson and George Miksch Sutton are to make the drawings for this useful work and to collaborate in any way they can.

Two W. K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary Fellowships have been announced by Michigan State College. Each of these pays \$1200 to a Ph.D. candidate who carries out his research project at the W. K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary. Persons who do satisfactory work may have their fellowships renewed for one or more years. One fellowship is now available. Inquiries should be addressed to Dr. Arthur E. Staebler, Director of the W. K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary, Hickory Corners, Michigan.

Your editor, with Ralph M. Edeburn, Robert W. Storer, Philip S. Humphrey, David Parmalee and Peter Stettenheim, all members of the Club, visited the Kellogg Sanctuary late last November and witnessed, with great interest and satisfaction, the capture and banding of 19 Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*). Cannons-of-a-sort set in a line on the lake-shore shot a great net out over the feeding birds, which were promptly put into big crates and taken to a building not far away for banding. Dr. Staebler, who has been active in banding geese since becoming Director of the Sanctuary, keeps a record of each bird handled, carefully determining the sex through anal examination and noting conditions of plumage, irregularities of color pattern, and such details as missing toes. The geese which we 'helped' to band on November 25 were surprisingly tractable, though they beat their wings mightily when not held properly and occasionally bit hard when a hand lingered within tempting distance. Their beauty, as they sprang into the strong wind bearing away their new bands, was thrilling. That was the day of the 'big blow'—a day we shall never forget.

At the meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union in St. Paul and Minneapolis last October many Wilson Club members were honored. Josselyn Van Tyne, for many years editor of *The Wilson Bulletin*, was elected President. Alden H. Miller was elected First Vice-President, Ludlow Griscom, Second Vice-President, Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., Secretary, R. Allyn Moser, Treasurer, and Harvey I. Fisher, Editor. W. J. Breckenridge, George H. Lowery, Jr., Frank A. Pitelka, and L. L. Snyder were elected to Council. Maurice Brooks, our President, and Dr. Breckenridge, our First Vice-President, were elected Fellows. F. Haverschmidt of Paramaribo, Surinam, and Helmuth O. Wagner, of Bremen, both members of the Club and contributors to *The Bulletin*, were elected Corresponding Fellows. Harold F. Mayfield, our Secretary, was elected to full Membership. Others elected Fellows were: Harvey I. Fisher, William Rowan, A. A. Saunders, Alexander Sprunt, Jr., and Winsor M. Tyler. Others elected Members were: Anders H. Anderson, Rollin H. Baker, William J. Beecher, Charles H. Blake, Ben B. Coffey, Jr., J. Fred Denton, Alexander D. DuBois, Mary M. Erickson, E. Thomas Gilliard, Horace Groskin, William H. Marshall, Gale W. Monson, Fred J. Pierce, Karl Plath, Hustace H. Poor, Kenneth Racey, William F. Rapp, Jr., W. Austin Squires, Walter P. Taylor, Ruth Harris Thomas, Melvin A. Traylor, Jr., Arthur B. Williams, C. Sloan Williams, and Angus M. Woodbury. In 1951 the Union will meet in Montreal.

During the summer of 1950 the Arctic Institute of North America sponsored two ornithological investigations—a general one dealing with the birds of St. Lawrence Island and the Nome region of Alaska, carried on by T. J. Cade, of the University of Alaska; and a more detailed one dealing with the breeding populations of the Upland Plover (*Bartramia longicauda*) in the vicinity of Burwash Landing, Yukon, carried on by Irven O. Buss of the State College of Washington. An expedition to Baffin Island, led by P. D. Baird, Director of the Montreal office of the Arctic Institute, centered its activities on the east coast. An initial report on this expedition, including a discussion of the birds encountered, is to be published presently in the journal *Arctic*.

Dr. Ira L. Wiggins, of the staff of the Natural History Museum at Stanford University, has recently been appointed Scientific Director of the Arctic Research Laboratory at Point Barrow. This laboratory should furnish an excellent base for anyone interested in studying birds in the arctic. For particulars write the Scientific Director, Arctic Research Laboratory, Point Barrow, Alaska.

We are especially grateful to William C. Dilger, now a graduate student at Cornell University, for making the fine color-plate we are using as a frontispiece for this issue and volume. Mr. Dilger's extra time recently has been used in making a series of canary paintings for the French bird seed people. These we are eager to see in published form.

Jane S. (Mrs. Robert M.) Mengel has consented to serve as a member of our Illustrations Committee. This is good news for all of us—especially for her husband, who happens to be Chairman of the Committee.

A Science Annual, serving as a supplement to the Smithsonian Series, is now being prepared by the Series Publishers, Inc., of New York City. Webster P. True, Editor, who has written us of his plan to "reprint in the Annual some twenty-five or more of the year's outstanding articles appearing in scientific and technical journals," has asked permission to use "Barometric Pressure-Patterns and Spring Bird Migration," by Aaron M. Bagg, W. W. H. Gunn, D. S. Miller, J. T. Nichols, Winnifred Smith and F. P. Woolfarth, a paper which appeared in the March, 1950, issue of *The Wilson Bulletin*.

The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union and Editor Dwain W. Warner are to be commended for their recent publication in *The Flicker* of Arnold B. Erickson's "Bibliography of the Wilson's Snipe." It is to be hoped that other state organizations will exhibit from time to time a scholarly breadth of interest of this sort.

By invitation The Wilson Ornithological Club was officially represented at the inauguration of Dr. Louis Linden Madsen as President of Utah State Agricultural College at Logan on November 3, 1950. Maurice Brooks asked George H. Kelker, a sustaining member of the Club since 1938, to serve us in this capacity.

L. E. Richdale, Honorary Lecturer in Zoology at the University of Otago, New Zealand, and a member of The Wilson Ornithological Club since 1945, arrived in the United States last December. He visited at the University of California and the State College of Washington, stopped for several days in Chicago on his way east, and is now at Cornell University. His book, "The Sexual Behavior of Penguins," is being published by the University of Kansas soon. He plans to attend our annual meeting in Davenport. We hope that he will present a paper on albatrosses, petrels, or penguins—or all three.

Through an unfortunate oversight the name of Betty (Mrs. Herbert E.) Carnes was omitted from the list, published in the last issue of *The Bulletin*, of Americans attending the Tenth International Ornithological Congress in Sweden. Mrs. Carnes is President of the New Jersey Audubon Society. She has been a member of The Wilson Ornithological Club since 1944.

James P. Chapin, who is noted especially for his work on African birds, is now the President of the Explorers Club of New York. He was 'Distant Guest of Honor' at the recent twenty-seventh anniversary meeting of the Cleveland Bird Club.

We regret to announce that several defective copies of the December *Bulletin* were mailed to subscribers. If your copy of the issue had no colored frontispiece please write the Editor at once. A copy complete with color plate will be sent you if you will return the defective copy; or a separate color plate, which can be tipped in, will be sent. Please mail defective copies direct to the Editor.

Just as we go to press, Samuel A. Grimes, of Jacksonville, Florida, offers to have made "at no cost to the W.O.C." the color plates of the Wilson's Warbler kodachrome referred to editorially in our last *Bulletin*. Several other members already have made donations to the color plate fund. This money will be used in printing the plates Mr. Grimes so generously offers to have made.

Mrs. Marjorie Rine Olsen, of Elm Grove, West Virginia, has recently been helping her busy son Jim, our Treasurer, with some of the detail of his exacting job. For one thing she has been keeping straight all records pertaining to names and addresses of members. Mrs. Olsen deserves, and is hereby tendered, our thanks.

University and college students desiring free or inexpensive rooms during the April meeting of the Club should write at once to the Housing Committee, Davenport Public Museum, Davenport, Iowa.

The editors are grateful to the following for assistance in preparing for publication the material appearing in this issue: Aaron M. Bagg, Donald J. Borrer, William L. Brudon, James B. Cope, William A. Lunk, Harold F. Mayfield, Ernst Mayr, Rogers McVaugh, Oscar T. Owre, Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., Elizabeth Reeder Schwartz, and Milton B. Trautman. Elsa Hertz, long a friend of the Club, has assisted through daily typing of letters and parts of manuscripts.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

My admiration for the learning and stimulating hypotheses contained in W. J. Beecher's recent article "Convergent Evolution in the American Orioles" (1950. *Wilson Bulletin*, 62: 50-56) is unbounded. I feel, however, that the article ignores certain pertinent facts that, had they been included, might have led to conclusions very different from those presented.

Beecher separates the genus *Icterus* into two genera, *Icterus* and *Bananivorus*, on the strength of what he considers their independent origin from two ancestral South American genera. He thinks that evolutionary modifications have brought about color convergence in several modern species. These modifications have resulted, primarily, from "dietary" changes associated with climatic changes caused by geological events.